

CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Thank you to Deb Berg, Marcia Erickson, Chris Kuehl, Paul Olson, Shelly Merrick, Bill Richards, and Kathy Vondracek. The following information is a result of excellent conversation and review of present and possible future needs. It is not complete but hopefully it gets you thinking and adding to the mix of ideas in the next few weeks. Comments, disagreement and positive suggestions are welcome. The three alternatives currently presented are as follows:

ALTERNATIVE ONE: Status Quo Plus provides for minimal changes to the current system with possible increase in ELL programs with less paraprofessionals and more certified teachers. There are three option included in this plan.

ALTERNATIVE TWO: ONE TRANSITION: K-8 Walnut Grove & 9-12 Westbrook. This proposal suggests that we move all Pre-K-8 students to Walnut Grove and 9-12 students would remain in Westbrook. It also suggests that we create an ELL charter/concept school.

ALTERNATIVE THREE: TWO TRANSITIONS: The Pre K and Kindergarten grades would be placed in Westbrook along with grades 9-12. Grades 1-8 would be in Walnut Grove. There would be a ELL services at both locations.

| A | B | C | D | E |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| ALTERNATIVE | DESCRIPTION | STAFFING | CURRICULUM | CONSIDERATIONS |
| ONE: STATUS QUO PLUS Option A | WB: K-4 / 9-12 WG: Pre K /K-4 / 5-8 | same with staff inservice & Incentives on differentiated instruction & ELL. | Refine K-8 Keyboarding / Elementary Handwriting | Develop Complete K-12 ELL Curriculum. Review All K-4 materials |
| ONE: STATUS QUO PLUS Option B | Add an ELL Academy for beginning language learners as well as other Magnets for Fine Arts, Business & Vocational | shift staff to Magnet programs as developed | ELL and Fine Arts and Vocational Business Magnet | STAR Program continuation |
| ONE: STATUS QUO PLUS Option C | Shift to less paras and more certified teachers to reduce numbers in classes with language needs. Advisory Groups in grades 5-8. | ELL Program Coordinator / equivalent to Star program .75 position | | Somewhere Earth Science for high school credit will need to be offered in the next few years |
| TWO: ONE TRANSITION | WB: 9-12 and ELL Concept School WG: pre K- 8th grade Possible Magnet focus in Business and ELL . 5-8 Advisement Homeroom | K - 4 Common Planning Period / Add full time school nurse / Spanish 1.5 / Overall SPED Coordinator | 5 year old Transition PGM / Transition program for ELL students / k-8 Reading program | Spanish could be optional in K-8 depedning on other student needs |
| THREE: TWO TRANSITIONS | WB: preK -K & 9-12 WG: 1st- 8th grade ELL Pull Out at both sites | SPED: 1 in Wb and 1.5 - 2 in WG /ELL Coordinator / school nurse | Expanded Pre- K program /transition kindergartern / | |

ALTERNATIVE ONE: Status Quo Plus provides for minimal changes to the current system with possible increase in ELL programs with less paraprofessionals and more certified teachers. There are three options included in this plan.

District Wide Suggestions:

1. All content areas should check to see if curriculum is covering what is tested by MCAs.
2. An ELL curriculum needs to be developed.
3. All programs and curriculums need to be maintained and/or improved.

Elementary Suggestions:

1. Review Science, Social Studies, and Health both sequentially (K-4) and between buildings (WB-WG).
2. More discussion is needed on coordinating handwriting curriculum.
3. Develop a keyboarding curriculum.

Middle School Suggestions:

1. Continue the elementary keyboarding curriculum through the middle school years.

High School Questions:

1. Do we need to develop an Earth Science curriculum?
2. Could our curriculum cover classes such as Junior/Senior refresher math class or an additional college prep writing course?

Submitted by: K. Vondracek and D. Berg

ALTERNATIVE TWO: ONE TRANSITION-

pre K-8 Walnut Grove & 9-12 Westbrook. This proposal suggests that we move all Pre-K-8 students to Walnut Grove and 9-12 students would remain in Westbrook. It also suggests that we create an ELL charter/concept school.

Curriculum for Pre K

Teachers creating activities that are developmentally appropriate for the child.
The preschool is currently held at Walnut Grove in the WG Elementary building
Walnut Grove- Mon. am and Wed. am for 4-5 year olds
Westbrook- Tues. am and Wed. am for 4-5 year olds
Westbrook and Walnut Grove 3 year olds go to Preschool in WG on Fri. am

Currently the Pre-K teacher is a para in the Kindergarten room in the PM
OT services, Speech services, Home visits, and IEP are currently being served
Some of the activities in Preschool include: Handwriting, Holding the pencil correctly,
and Letter recognition

Change in the Pre-K

Early childhood transition room for 5 year olds who are not in Kindergarten.
This facility will be in Walnut Grove Mon.- Fri. in the afternoon.

Curriculum for Grades K-4: suggested minimum times to work on the following subjects

Common Preparation time for faculty to meet with grade level partner at least once a week for at least 30 minutes.

Reading-60 minutes

Math- 45 minutes

English- 30 minutes

Spelling- 20 minutes

Computer Skills- 30 minutes weekly

Phy Ed- 30 minutes

Music- 30 minutes

Library- 30 minutes weekly

Spanish- 20 minutes weekly

Art- 45 minutes weekly

Social Studies- 30 minutes

Science- 30 minutes

Health- 30 minutes

Handwriting-

5th Grade

Block of time for Social Studies/Communication= 2 hours

Block of time for Science/ Math = 2 hours

Band- 45 minutes 3 times per week

Choir- 45 minutes 2 times per week

Spanish-20 minutes weekly

Phy Ed- 30 minutes daily

Art- 45 minutes weekly

Library- 30 minutes weekly

Music- 30 minutes daily

Health-30 minutes daily

Grades 6-8

Math- 60 minutes

Communications- 90 minutes with Reading 60 minutes and 30 minutes English/Spelling
Times above can be adjusted to include Computer time, creative writing, etc.

Science- 60 minutes

Social Studies (Geography, History, Civics)- 60 minutes

Phy Ed-30 minutes 3 times a week

Health - 30 minutes 2 times a week offsetting Phy Ed.

Art- one quarter year for 45 minutes

Industrial Arts- one quarter year for 45 minutes

Life Skills- one quarter year for 45 minutes

Spanish- one quarter year for 45 minutes

Band or Choir-45 minutes daily

High School 30 credits are needed to graduate

English- 4.5 credits

Math- 3 credits

Biology- 1 credit

Physical Science or Chemistry- 1 credit

Additional Science- 1 credit

American History (pre 1850)- 1 credit

American History (post 1850)- 1 credit

World History- 1 credit

Geography- .5 credit

Additional credits taken from the electives offered to meet the 30 credits need to graduate

American Government- .5 credit

Physical Education and health-
1.5 credits

Fine Arts- 1 credit

Keyboarding- .5 credit

Vocational- 1 credit

A. ELL pullout program-Transition program to provide services necessary to include students back into the general public

B. STAR for WWG K

C. Counselors for WWG K-12

D. Kid's Club in WG for after-school daycare

E. After school homework help session

F. More near a full time School Nurse

G. Special Education

-Curriculum is subject to IEP requirements

H. Special Services

-Subject of IEP requirements

How will Plan B improve student learning?

-Reading as a subject will be made available for Grades K-8

-Transition room for the 5 year olds not in Kindergarten to learn social and academic skills necessary for success in Kindergarten

-ELL pullout provides suitable Native Language support

-Teachers coordinating curriculum

What is the most effective and efficient use of all the staff?

- This plan will utilize the talents and interests of the staff,

What criteria should be set to evaluate the success of the change?

-test scores

-student attendance

-staff attendance

-participation by parents at school functions

ALTERNATIVE THREE: TWO TRANSITIONS-

The Pre K and Kindergarten grades would be placed in Westbrook along with grades 9-12. Grades 1-8 would be in Walnut Grove. There would be a ELL services at both locations.

Basis for reasoning: We felt that with this option the most important elements should be the formation of early schooling in one central location, the change of self contained classroom to include 5th grade, the retention of 6-8 in the traditional middle school format, and not change the high school program.

Early Childhood Adjustment: Pre-K four year olds- two 1/2 days
3 1/2 year olds-one 1/2 day

Reasons for the change of Pre-K-K to Westbrook.

- A.** All pre-school screening would be in Westbrook, allowing for materials to stay in one location and to better utilize staff.
- B.** One full-time Special Ed staff person in Pre-K-K and 9-12. One and one-half to two staff people in 1-8 to meet State requirements for IEP's.
- C.** Expanded Pre-K-K opportunities to better prepare for kindergarten curriculum, will be able to more easily coordinate between staff.
- D.** Possible to have a junior transitional kindergarten for students who are five but not ready for kindergarten.
- E.** All in one place, testing would be facilitated, special services would also be facilitated for instance speech therapy, occupational therapy, hearing impaired services.
- F.** Teachers would be able to discuss as a whole whether or not a student is ready to enter kindergarten or first grade.
- G.** Chance for high school students to continue working with younger students on projects.
- H.** Concentrate on the diversity factor at an earlier age. Will help create a comfort level for students within the classroom that can be taken with them throughout their school years.
- I.** Could incorporate physical education and music into pre-school program.

Reasons against this change

- A.** Staff and student isolation from rest of elementary.
- B.** Difficult to coordinate curriculum with lower elementary in Walnut Grove.
- C.** Specialty such as music, P.E., art could be a problem sharing staffing with Walnut Grove

Elementary Focus: 1-8 in Walnut Grove

Reasons for 1-8 in Walnut Grove

- A.** Two sections of 1-5
- B.** 6-8 retain Middle School concept
- C.** Better use physical education equipment, computer programs, library resources, science materials, counseling services
- D.** Outside services to one school instead of moving between two buildings and two towns.
- E.** Reduce transitional stress in 5th grade.

Reinforce 1-5 core curriculum curriculum

Reinforce 6-8 core curriculum

-Daily

Reading
Math
Grammar
Spelling
Handwriting
Physical Education
Music

-Weekly

Art
Spanish

-As fits schedule

Social Studies
Sc Science
Health
Computer

-Daily

Reading
Math
Grammar
Spelling
Band (beg. in 5th)

-9 weeks

Industrial Tech
Life Skills
Art
Computer

High School: 9-12 in Westbrook Status quo-no changes at this time unless facilitated by change made in Walnut Grove to 1-8. There might have to be more travel time with certain staff.

A. ELL Pull-out

B. Pull out options at both sites

C. Decided by TEAE tests and classroom work.

(What happens to material missed while out of classroom?)

D. Both sites must have goals for achievement